**What Evil Has He Done?**

**(Matthew 27:1-66)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**1.** As you read through Matthew’s gospel this week, what stood out to you? What did you see and hear in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ that affirms his innocence/sinlessness/perfection?

**2.** In your own words, explain why the sinlessness of Jesus is theologically important. How does Romans 5 and the idea of Christ being the “second Adam” help us in this regard?

**3.** In Matthew 27, why did Judas change his mind? What did he do? What did Judas say about the character of Christ?

**4.** What did the Jewish leaders charge Jesus with (i.e., Why did they bring him before Pilate)? What do we learn about the Person and character of Jesus through Pilate’s response(s)? What does Pilate’s wife report to him concerning Jesus?

**5.** In what way(s) does Christ’s impeccable character heighten the drama and scandal of verses 27-31? What emotions, feelings, thoughts should this scene evoke in us? In what way(s) are we like the soldiers?

**6.** In verses 32-44, how do the Jewish leaders respond to seeing Christ hanging on the cross outside of Jerusalem? In what way(s) does Hebrews 13:10-16 illuminate Matthew’s account?

**7.** What happened immediately following Christ’s death on the cross? In what way(s) do these events make the response of the chief priests and Pharisees even more shocking (vv. 62-66)? What does this say about the depth of man’s depravity (see also Romans 1:18-32)?

**8.** How would you answer Pilate’s question—"What evil has he done?” Why is the sinless perfection of Jesus Christ important for sinners like us? In your own words, explain how 2 Corinthians 5:21 summarizes Matthew 27. In what way(s) are you like the Jewish leaders? What must God do to sinners so that they no longer despise his kingship (see also 2 Corinthians 4:4-6)? After reading Matthew 27, how would you respond to someone who asked you why today is referred to as *Good Friday*?